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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,441	09/18/2003	Earl O. Bergersen	BER-P-03-054	7298
29013	7590	03/14/2006	EXAMINER	
PATENTS+TMS, P.C. 2849 W. ARMITAGE AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60647			LEWIS, RALPH A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3732	
DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/665,441

Applicant(s)

BERGERSEN, EARL O.

Examiner

Ralph A. Lewis

Art Unit

3732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-87 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-87 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84 (i) and (p) as being informal. The lines, numbers and letters lack uniformity and are fuzzy lacking sharp definition. No new matter should be entered.

Replacement drawings are required. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Obvious-Type Double Patenting Rejections

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-87 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over

Claims 1-110 of copending Application No. 10/447,099;

Claims 1-114 of copending Application No. 10/449,292;

Claims 1-139 of copending Application No. 10/449,312;

Claims 1-82 of copending Application No. 10/760,604; and

Claims 1-51 of copending Application No. 11/257,330

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of the present application are merely obvious variations of the claims presented in applicant's other applications. Merely rearranging the order of claimed elements and using different wording to refer to the same subject matter would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 1, it is suggested that language "to be worn" or "adapted to be worn" should be used to make it clear that applicant is not claiming the patient as part of the invention. See *In re Rohrbacher*, 128 USPQ 117 (CCPA 1960) for guidance in claim drafting. Additionally in claim 1, line 5, "for contacting" or "adapted to contact" is suggested. In claim 1, line 16, "for contacting" or "adapted to contact" is suggested.

In claims 2 and 3, "for contacting" or "adapted to contact" is suggested to make clear that applicant is not claiming the patient as part of the invention.

In claim 4, "for extending" or "adapted to extend" is suggested to make clear that applicant is not claiming the patient as part of the invention.

The same positive claiming of the patient occurs in claims 8, 11, 14, 18, 20, 21, 27, 35, 37, 38, 44, 47, 50, 51, 58, 63, 64, 68, 71, 73, 74, 77, 79, 82, 84 and 85.

Correction is required.

Rejections based on Prior Art

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 21-34, 44-51, 58-66 and 68-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergersen (US 5,645,420).

Bergersen '420 discloses a dental appliance having a general U-shaped base (Figure 2), flat occlusal surface 50 (note Fig 5), first wall 26, second wall 28, slot 22 whose width increases from the front (Figure 3) to the rear (Figure 5). In regard to claim 4, note lingual tabs 34. In regard to claim 5, note column 10, line 64. In regard to claim 6, note column 8, lines 1-22. In regard to claim 8, note wedges 22 (Figure 3). In regard to claim 9, note Fig 15. In regard to claim 21, note column 4, lines 8-9, which indicate that the device is made in various sizes, whether or not two different sized appliances

are worn consecutively or not by a particular user is a matter of intended use and fails to impose any objectively ascertainable structural distinctions between the currently claimed set and that disclosed by Bergersen '420. In regard to claims 25 and 26, the manner in which applicant intends for the claimed devices to be made, fails to impose any objectively ascertainable structural distinctions from the devices disclosed by Bergersen '420.

Claims 14-17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Andrews (US 4,591,341).

Note mouthpiece 10 with suction cups 14, 16, 20, 24, 26 and 30. In regard to claim 15, the suction cups are removable with the proper tools.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 42 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergersen (US 5,645,420) in view of Watson et al (US 5,328,362).

Watson et al teach the construction of dental appliances of a first relatively rigid material and a second relatively soft resilient material for aiding in the proper movement of the patient's teeth. Top have constructed the Bergersen orthodontic appliance of

hard and soft materials as taught by Watson et al in order to aid in the proper movement of the patient's teeth would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 7, 18, 40 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergersen (US 5,645,420) in view of Andrews (US 4,591,341).

Andrews teaches the use of small suction cups (14, 16, 20, 24, 26, 30) positioned in an orthodontic appliance in order to provide increased adherence and firmly hold the teeth together in the desired position. To have provided the Bergersen orthodontic appliance with small suction cups in order to provide increased adherence and firmly hold the teeth together in the desired position as taught by Andrews would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 21-39, 41-43 and 52-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergersen (US 5,645,420).

In regard to claims 21-34, merely providing for two different sized mouthpieces in order to treat multiple patients or a single patient multiple times would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. In regard to claims 35-37, it would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan to position the wire 104 at the surface of the mouthpiece to better position the user's teeth. Finally in regard to claims 52-57, it most certainly would have been obvious to the practitioner to explain to the patient the orthodontic procedure being under taken.

Prior Art


Applicant's information disclosure statement of December 29, 2003, July 14, 2004 and August 16 2004 have been considered and initialed copies enclosed herewith.

Bergersen patents 5,194,004, 5,203,695, 6,582,225, and 6,626,664 are made of record.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to **Ralph Lewis** at telephone number **(571) 272-4712**. Fax (571) 273-8300. The examiner works a compressed work schedule and is unavailable every other Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver, can be reached at (571) 272-4720.

R.Lewis
March 8, 2006


Ralph A. Lewis
Primary Examiner
AU3732